



January 2016

Ocean
Isle
Beach, NC

The News Breaker

Annual Town Newsletter

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Tide Tip!

Are you planning a wedding at Ocean Isle?

Maybe you're looking forward to a "sunset stroll" on the strand with your sweetheart...

...or a fun-filled afternoon of seashell hunting with the grandkids?

Don't forget to check the tides! Get the latest info at www.oibgov.com

Just look under the **Visitors** tab and locate **"Weather"**.

Easy as 1-2-3!



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Life is Better at the Beach!

Town of Ocean Isle Beach ~ 3 West Third Street
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469
(910) 579-2166 ~ www.oibgov.com



"The Buzz at the Beach"

Notes and News from your Town Administrator, *Daisy L Ivey*



The Town continues to be committed to battling erosion along our oceanfront shoreline. Currently we are working to obtain permits on three different projects that will assist in this endeavor. **The Terminal Groin Project** continues to be our top priority. Our financial assurance documents for this project have been approved by the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. The final CAMA major permit application has also been submitted to the State and we are awaiting notification that our application has been deemed complete so that we can begin the 150 day public notification period. We have also been able to secure all but one easement necessary for the construction of this groin. It is anticipated that the groin will be constructed during the 2016-17 fiscal year.

The Town is also working on an alternative plan for **re-nourishment** known as the **30 Year Island Wide Shoreline Protection Plan**. Engineers are in the process of developing the required environmental documentation needed for this permit. This island-wide management plan would utilize the existing borrow area within Shallotte Inlet as the primary borrow source for initial construction of projects along the east and west ends of the Town as well as periodic nourishment of the entire 5.5 mile ocean shoreline which includes the **Federal Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project**. Current estimates indicate approximately 654,000 cubic yards of material would be needed every five years to maintain the Town's oceanfront shoreline once all shoreline management plans are implemented.

Finally, the Town is also seeking a permit known as the **SDI-5 Maintenance Dredging**. Local stakeholders for five inlets on the southeast North Carolina coast are submitting a CAMA Major Permit Application to the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources in order to continue maintenance dredging in support of navigation, should the US Army Corps of engineers not be able to continue this navigation maintenance due to lack of funding. The five inlets are Bogue, New Topsail, Carolina Beach, Lockwood Folly and Shallotte Inlet. The intended result is the acquisition of locally held authorizations (Permits) for each inlet used by each participating applicant to support maintenance dredging.

Our Board remains dedicated to protecting our most valuable resources and will continue to work diligently to obtain the necessary permits to do so. Thank you!



Stocking Stuffers At Town Hall!

Prices

Postcards - 5 cards for \$2

Sandy Toes Cards - \$2.50ea

T-shirts - \$15

OIB License Plates - \$10

Banner 30"X48" - \$35

(with pole sleeve)

Lg. Flags 3'X5' - \$45

(with grommets)





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We would like to dedicate this edition of *The News Breaker* to the men and women who serve on our various **TOWN ADVISORY BOARDS**.

~Former President Bill Clinton once said~

“Citizen Service is the very American idea that we meet our challenges not as isolated individuals but as members of a true community.”

We salute these individuals for their dedication and support to our community!

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

Carol Grantham (Chairperson), Don Kauffman, Becky Noble, Larry Cheek, Robbie Smith, Frank Williamson and Ernie Crews

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS

Todd Robertson (Chairperson), David Martin, Jo Lammonds, Charles Fox III, Ida Moon, Bo Tate, Frank Williamson, Laura Ward, and Tracy Hobgood

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Ida Moon (Chairperson), Carol Kauffman, Scott Walters, and Gayle Hughes

ABC BOARD MEMBERS

George Montague (Chairperson) Robert Calhoun, and Buddy Russell

LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS RELIEF FUND BOARD:

Curtiss Pritchard, Buddy Russell, Kathryn Gossett, and Cray Milligan



**Knowing how to USE a fire extinguisher is essential...
But knowing how to BUY a fire extinguisher is just as important!
The steps on how to buy a fire extinguisher are simple:**



Step 1 – Decide which type of fire extinguisher you need

Most residential buildings are equipped with Class A (paper /wood) extinguishers. However, for a higher level of safety, homeowners often purchase extinguishers that have a combination rating – they can be used for Class B fires (grease and oil) or even Class C fires (electrical). Pay attention to the Effectiveness Rating also, a model rated 2-A will be less effective than a model rated 3-A. Extinguisher size is measured in pounds - an average home should have a 6 to 10lb extinguisher on each floor.

Step 2 – Consider other features of fire extinguishers

Several other features of fire extinguishers should be taken into account such as the mounting hardware, methods of refilling or recharging, and the instructions for use.

Step 3 – Buy a fire extinguisher online

Shopping online for this essential safety equipment is not just simple and easy, but also likely to be the most affordable way to purchase extinguishers. Online retailers offer a variety of brands, sizes, and class ratings (in most cases, more than most stores are able to stock), providing you with a good selection and a range of manufacturers.

DO NOT HESITATE!

Purchase & install fire extinguishers to protect your home or building against potential fire disasters.



TOWN PROJECTS UPDATES

NCDOT PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT

*HWY 179 (Beach Drive) and
HWY 904 (Causeway Drive)*

The North Carolina Department of Transportation has completed the Preliminary Plans and Field Inspection for the proposed Roundabout at the Intersection of Hwy. 179 and 904. The proposed Roundabout would be 150 feet in diameter which is similar in size to the recently constructed Roundabout at Sunset Beach. Mr. Chad Kimes (NCDOT) indicated the Department is working to obtain additional funding for this project which would allow for a 30 year design plan. Preliminary meetings have been held with affected property owners regarding right-of-way acquisition, drainage easements and temporary construction easements. Construction of the roundabout is estimated to begin in F/Y 2017.



BEMC LIGHTING PROJECT

The Town of OIB, in conjunction with BEMC, completed an upgrade to our **Street Lighting System**. Poles were painted gray and fixtures were replaced with a new modern style.

Please remember if you observe a street light in your neighborhood that is not working report the pole number and outage to our

**Planning and
Inspections
Department**

at
910-579-3469.



2014-2015 CONCRETE CANAL DREDGING PROJECT

The Concrete Canal dredging project has now been completed! Approximately 25,821 cubic yards of material was removed from the project area as shown in the map below during this dredging cycle. Due to the fact the project has performed as originally projected, the Town was also able to process refunds to property owners for excess revenues collected during this five-year cycle. The next concrete canal dredging project will take place in F/Y 2019-20.





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COMMUNITY SHARING

July Fireworks at OIB Pier

The Town and the Ocean Isle Property Owners Association is once again joining efforts to bring our Property Owners and Guests a professional fireworks display at Ocean Isle Beach. The date of this year's show has been scheduled for July 3, 2016, with a rain date on July 6, 2016.

Final approval of contract is pending approval by the Williamson Family for use of pier. The Town wishes to express their appreciation to the **Williamson Family** for allowing the Town to use the Pier for this event since its inception two years ago!

Thank You!



New Face Around Town Hall!

The Town of Ocean Isle Beach welcomes our new Town Clerk, **Casey E. Reeves**. She is a native of Ocean Isle Beach and has witnessed our coastal town grow from a quaint little nook of Brunswick County to the vibrant and welcoming community that it has become! Casey would like to extend a personal thanks to everyone at Town Hall for their warm welcome, helpful hints, and gracious hospitality!



Town Clerk
Casey Reeves

In her own words, "It is a true honor to serve as Clerk for my hometown. I am looking forward to serving the Town with enthusiasm, integrity, and a true appreciation for everything our beautiful area has to offer!"

(*One of Casey's favorite hobbies is amateur photography. See a few of her recent OIB shots in this newsletter. Just find the following logo)



Disasters happen quickly and often without warning.

CODE RED

Keeping citizens informed.

When one takes place, Brunswick County utilizes a mass notification system to call, text and email individuals with important information. **CodeRED** is a lifesaving notification system that keeps residents informed of emergencies near them.

Brunswick County strongly encourages residents to enroll to receive these alerts. The **CodeRED** system will allow you to manage your own information and update your contact information on your own. This information is private and is not sold or shared with outside parties.

Please take a moment to sign up for alerts or update your contact information so you can stay safe.



<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/7BC24EDE14D3>

Wild Weather!



Did you know that our Town has received over **88 inches of rain** this *year!!!
(and we haven't even endured a major tropical storm!)

**data is from January 2015-November 2015*

On average, we should have only received **52-55 inches of rain!**

A BIG thank you to the hard-working **Town Employees** and **Volunteers** for keeping our beloved island as dry as possible!



Great Job Everyone!!

From our Mayor,
Debbie S. Smith

Planning and Inspections

Justin Whiteside, Planning Director

2015 was a year of continued growth and change in Ocean Isle Beach! As of this publication we have permitted **23** new homes on the island with another **36** in the ETJ! **New Handicap Beach Accesses** were constructed at Raeford, Beaufort, and Driftwood Streets. We recognize these handicap accesses are heavily used and we are always looking to install more where possible.



The plans for the first phase of the Town's multi-use path along First Street are currently being developed. This 8 foot path is proposed to be placed on the north side of West Third Street and extend from the roundabout to Beaufort Street (water tank). In the coming years this path will be extended in phases to create a continuous path from one end of the island to the other.

Beach Wheelchairs are now available for use through the Planning & Inspections Department Monday – Friday. Weekend rentals will still take place at the Ocean Isle Beach Police Department. Chairs are available at no cost and can now be kept up to 3 days. This will allow people to utilize the chairs during the evening when temperatures are much cooler. Please remember that these are very large chairs and normally require a large SUV/Van with fold-down seats or truck for transport.

FEMA's Preliminary Flood Maps are now available. The proposed changes could possibly have a major impact on what you now pay in flood insurance premiums. With the majority of the island proposed to change from a VE to AE Flood Zone designation, this lower rated zone may qualify many for a lower premium once the new maps go into effect. This change could possibly save property owners thousands of dollars per year. You can view these preliminary maps at www.ncfloodmaps.com. Make sure in the viewer window that you have selected the "Preliminary" maps. The default viewer will automatically show the current "Effective" maps. At this time we still do not have an official "EFFECTIVE" date from FEMA for these new maps.

Please be sure to contact our dept. at **910-579-3469** prior to beginning any home improvement project to ensure



Public Utilities Department

Larry Sellers, Assistant Town Administrator

Everyone can assist in reducing costs and help to improve efficiency of our Town's sewer system in preventing blockages and pump issues by following these simple guidelines:



Keep Wipes Out of Pipes !

Sometimes we forget the toilet is not a trash can. All wipes and disposable cleaning products belong in the trash, not the toilet. Did you know flushing wipes down the toilet can cause problems in the Town's sewer system?

Those "disposable" wipes may be **labeled flushable**, but they can clog the sewer system, contributing to costly cleanups.

Many cleaning products are labeled "flushable" or "disposable," but they often **do not dissolve or break down** after being flushed!

A general guideline is, if it doesn't dissolve as fast as toilet paper, **it's not flushable.**

Recommendations Regarding Water & Sewer

- ***ONLY** biodegradable products should be flushed down the Sewer.
- *Please do **NOT** flush hand wipes, paper towels, dental floss or feminine products.
- *Do **NOT** place grease in your sink or garbage disposal.

Please do **NOT** plant vegetation immediately adjacent to water meters or fire hydrants nor cover water meters with pine straw or landscape mulch in order to allow Town Utility or Fire Department personnel proper visibility to access water meters and fire hydrants.





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OIB BEAT

Ken Bellamy, Chief of Police



During this time of year when the bustle of tourist activity has slowed and the island becomes a quieter place, the OIB Police Department kicks up their **Annual**

House Check Program into full-swing! It is our priority to keep you safe and your property secure 365 days a year... and the Winter season gives us the opportunity to pay extra attention to monitoring the homes of Property Owners, whether they are in town or away from the island.

Therefore, it is crucial that we have the most **up-to-date contact information** for you on file. The Police Department uses this information to contact you if there is a problem, question, or additional reason of concern regarding your property.



In addition to keeping an accurate contact file for each property owner, we also suggest you have a back-up plan in place. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to identify a **trusted neighbor** and inform them of your whereabouts and method of contacting you when you're away from the Ocean Isle area.

*Another **helpful tip** from your friends at the OIB Police Department*

IMMEDIATELY BREAKDOWN AND RECYCLE CARDBOARD SHIPPING BOXES!

Criminals purposely search for packaging of expensive items like flat-screen tvs, computers, tools, etc. These boxes are like "invitations" for future break-ins and robberies! Deter thieves...don't invite them!



In order to preform our task of servicing the community, we will be conducting a **SURVEY** in the near future for the purpose of gaining information about issues of public interest and concern. Once you have completed your survey, please return it in person, or via mail to the OIB Police Department. As always, if you have questions or concerns, you may contact the **Police Department** at (910) 579-4221 or by email at ken@oibgov.com.



Freezing temps are on their way!

Please be sure that all pipes have been winterized to

alleviate the chance of them freezing. Last year many homes were not prepared for the cold and the Town saw **over 200 broken water pipes**. Remember, if you turn off your water to your home also **TURN OFF THE POWER TO THE HOT WATER HEATER!** Not doing so could result in the heater element overheating and failing. As a final note, please make sure your emergency contact information is updated. This will assist staff in contacting you in an efficient and timely manner in the event of a water leak or concern that requires your attention.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT

2015 Property Taxes are due
January 5, 2016

Interest begins on January 6, 2016 at the rate of 2% for the month of January and 0.75% each month taxes are delinquent. The additional interest is added on the first day of each month.

Please call our office to verify you are paying the correct amount due.



Wendy Barbee, Tax Collector
Town of Ocean Isle Beach



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OIB Footprints

Members Making a Difference



Commissioner **Bob Williams** attended Wingate College which is now known as Wingate University. After graduation from Wingate he enlisted in the US Army Reserves. Upon completion of basic training he transferred to the NC National Guard and spent the next seven years serving in various positions while obtaining the rank of Executive 3 Officer.

It was during this time that he met and married his wife, Linda Honeycutt. Bob and Linda have been married for 49 years and have three children and eight grandchildren. They are also the proud parents of Cappy, their 100 lb. rescue and Lulu a beloved dachshund.

Bob followed in his father and grandfather's footsteps and started his career with the US Post Office. He moved on from this career and spent thirty-two years working in the textile industry producing double knit and polyester prints. This long productive career lead to Commissioner Williams starting his own business "Bob Williams Textiles". He and four other representatives traveled the country representing fabric manufactures to the home sewing industry. Commissioner Williams presently enjoys his career as a real estate agent in the Ocean Isle Beach area.

Bob and Linda purchased their first beach home at OIB in 1984. They would spend their summers living at Ocean Isle Beach while the children worked for local businesses. Their love for the area grew more and more each year and in 2000 they became full time residents moving from Monroe, North Carolina. They are members of Shallotte Presbyterian Church.

Commissioner Williams' hobbies include golf, fishing and motorcycles... Harleys of course! Bob was a member of his high school and college golf teams and his fondest memory of this time was when Bob and his Dad qualified for and played in the US Open Father/Son Tournament. Even though Bob and his dad did not win, they were fortunate to see Tom Kite and his father take home the trophy.

Commissioner Williams was first elected to serve on the Board of Commissioners in December 2011. He states he feels very blessed to live in this wonderful community and serve the residents of Ocean Isle Beach. It is his way of giving back.

Thank you Commissioner Williams for your dedication and service as a member of the Ocean Isle Beach Board of Commissioners.



COMMISSIONER BOB WILLIAMS

HAPPY RETIREMENT LARRY!
WE WILL MISS YOU!



Larry Sellers, Public Utilities Director/Asst. Town Administrator officially retired on **December 1, 2015.**

Larry has been an integral part of our OIB Family for **25 years.**

He has been very instrumental in the day to day operations of the Water, Sewer and Street Department. We will certainly miss him but wish him well as he begins this new chapter in his life!

